Following Institutions have been supported during the last two years under the Employment Generation Training Scheme (EGTS) in the State of Meghalaya for conducting DOEACC 'O' Level as per the details given below:

(i) St. Anthony College, Shillong—'A' Level—Rs. 17.6 lakhs

(ii) St. Edmund College Shillong—'O' Level—Rs. 11.00 lakhs.

Government control over private computer institutes

†557. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether various institutions have asked Government to enact necessary laws for information technology courses in private computer institutions;

(b) if so, whether besides enacting necessary laws, it is being considered to have Government control over these institutions for keeping a check on the increasing number of such institutions who ploy dream of being information technology experts;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, how long these private institutions would keep on playing with the future of students in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No such proposal was received to enact necessary laws for Information Technology courses in private computer institutions.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

International policy against hacking of Government sites

558. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there have been a s of hackings of Government and important corporate websites.

(b) whether it is also a fact that presently there is no internationa with penal force to enforce the States to comply with some basic intern

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

norms and standards relating to the Internet;

(c) whether Government propose to raise the matter at some suitable international fora to evolve some international policy against hackers and to establish institutional framework, so as to discourage website hackers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Not presently. Web technology is the most powerful manner of sharing information among the dispersed diaspora. Any restraint in this regard may be counter productive. There is sufficient open exchange of information and there are established procedures to protect the websites against such intrusions.

Downfall of Information Technology Sector

†559. SHRI JENESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Information Technology Sector after the initial bounce appears to be declining;

(b) whether it is also a fact that main reason is its being beyond the reach of common people; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to install internet booth at different places and to reduce the rates of intenet?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) In Software driven IT industry, indications suggest that due to slow down in the world economy, the software exports of on-site services is likely to be affected to some extent. However, out-sourcing of software services by international companies is likely to go up as a means of cutting the costs. On the whole it is expected that the Indian software industry will continue to maintain a healthy growth rate.

(c) The Internet booths at various places are mainly to provide IT facility to the common people and it may not have a direct link with the

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